Two additional Postmen have been deployed for smooth management of delivery work in the area.

I.D.D. Calls between India and Gulf Countries

1509. SHRI G. G. SWELL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of I.D.D. calls made between Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and other Gulf countries and India during the current year ending October, 1991;

(b) the foreign exchange earned through these calls; and

(c) whether Government are losing crores of rupees every year owing to a telephones racket in this circuit involving Indian telephone operators and high-ups in the Telephone Department?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) Sir, normally it takes around 3 to 4 months time for receiving the call data from foreign telecom administrations. The information required can be furnished by February, 1992.

(c) Some allegations to this effect have come to the notice of the Department of Telecom. Vigilance monitoring has been stepped up.

Formation of Telephone Advisory Committee for Assam

1510. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that TAC has been constituted for Assam; and

(b) if so, what is the composition of the same?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir. The TAC was formed. However, it now stands suspended.

(b) Composition of the TAC is given below:

1. Representative of the State Government.
2. Administrator, Municipal Corporation.
3. President, Journalist Association.
4. President, Medical Association.
5. President, Bar Council/Lawyers Association.
6. Vice Chancellor of one of the prominent University.
7. Representative from the professional organisation of Engineers etc.

8 & 9. Public/Social Workers.

10. to 12. MLAs (nominated by Speaker of the concerned State Assembly).

Loss due to theft of telephone cables

1511. SHRI CHUFRAN AZAMI:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited has suffered huge losses due to unchecked theft of telephone cables;

(b) if so, what is the quantum of loss suffered during 1989, 1990 and 1991 till date as a result thereof;

(c) whether Government have made any inquiry into the cable thefts to identify the rackets involved; and